

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 11-12, and 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kamiguchi et al. (U.S. 6,495,275). With respect to claim 1 of the present invention, claim 1 has been cancelled herein, rendering this rejection now moot. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form. With respect to claim 2 and other pending claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the cited reference does not teach (or suggest) a polycrystalline antiferromagnetic layer having a face-centered tetragonal lattice structure, as in independent claims 2 and 11 of the present invention, as amended.

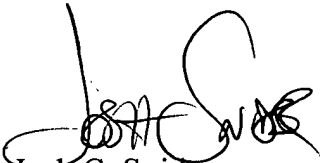
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's clarifying comments regarding his interpretation of the previously recited claim limitations "regulated lattice structure." Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's interpretation, particularly when the claims are read in light of the present Specification, Applicants have nevertheless further amended the independent claims in an effort to expedite prosecution.

Specifically, Applicants have amended claims 2 and 11 to better clarify that the antiferromagnetic layer is a polycrystalline layer, and that it has a face-centered tetragonal lattice structure. The Examiner acknowledges that the antiferromagnetic layer taught by Kamiguchi is at least "disordered," but the Examiner interprets the claim term "regulated" broadly enough to encompass a disordered structure. The Examiner should find, however, that the newly recited face-centered tetragonal lattice structure could not be reasonably interpreted to be a disordered layer, as the Examiner recognizes in the prior art. Support for these amendments can be found in at least page 13 of the present

Specification. Accordingly, the Examiner should find that the outstanding rejection of independent claims 2 and 11, as well as their respective dependent claims, has been overcome.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 2-3, 5-6, 11-12, and 14-15, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if a further interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 
Josh C. Snider
Registration No. 47,954

Customer No. 24978

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300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315
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